

ECCO Annual Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2015
St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

Attendance

Approximately 40 residents attended the Annual Meeting including 2014-15 Board members: Susie Goldstein, President; Harry Savage, Vice-President; Klaus Obergfell, Treasurer; Abby Armstrong; Paul Harstad; Mark Rosenfeld; and Caroline Vaaler.

The event began with pizza and a social hour.

ECCO Board President Susie Goldstein called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Remarks from Elected Officials:

Senator Scott Dibble, District 61

Senator Dibble gave an update on the legislative session:

- The first half of the biennial was to establish the budget, \$20 billion per year plus special funding for transportation.
- There were budget cuts to Health and Human Services but nursing home payment reform was passed.
- A bipartisan education bill passed.
- Negotiations continue to reach a compromise on a transportation bill.
- Dibble is disappointed in energy policies that will result in harm in the progress toward cleaner energy and renewable technologies.

Commissioner Anita Tabb, District 4, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

- Closing the Gap is the Park Board's effort to track infrastructure of the entire park system with a detailed list of assets for each park and the maintenance needs. The Park Board estimates that neighborhood parks are underfunded by \$10-14 million each year just to maintain existing assets. A panel discussion was held with experts from other cities to discuss options. More information is on the website: www.minneapolisparcs.org.
- ECCO resident Harvey Zuckman will speak about the Lake Calhoun and Harriet Master Plan.
- New trees were planted on the 31st St median but not all of them survived – those trees will be replaced (timing unknown).
- The Park Board is receiving requests from many areas of the city to expand cross-country ski trails. Staff is looking at the system as a whole to determine the needs.
- The Minneapolis Parks Foundation is helping to raise money for the Water Works project along the Mississippi River.
- Redesigning the parkland adjacent to the Walker Library is in the 2019 capital budget.

Council Member Lisa Bender, Ward 10

Council Member Bender is focusing on three areas: transportation systems, housing options, and ensuring that the community remains strong.

Transportation:

- Working on ways to improve street projects to ensure that streets are safe for pedestrians and bicyclists: improving pedestrian crossings, expanding bikeways and greening the streetscape. The improvements can often be accomplished within the original budget.
- 29th Street will be reconstructed beginning next year.
- Work continues to reopen Nicollet Ave (Kmart site).

Housing:

- Adding more options in the housing market. Two policy reforms: 1. Legalizing accessory dwelling units for owner-occupied properties. 2. Parking reform – eliminating parking requirements for smaller apartment buildings to encourage development of smaller sites.
- Working on housing options for low-income residents.

Working Families Agenda

- Looking at regulations to benefit workers with more predictable scheduling and paid sick time.

Also:

- The citywide rollout of organics composting began.
- Airport noise: There was a change in runway use as MSP that caused more plane traffic over certain neighborhoods. The Metropolitan Airports Commission delayed the publication of their Long Term Comprehensive Plan until January 2016.

Radon Presentation by Marc Katz, Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)

- Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers.
- Radon is an odorless, colorless, tasteless gas that comes from uranium in the soil and enters the home through floor/wall joints, crawl spaces, settling cracks, and plumbing.
- 2 in 5 homes in Minnesota have high levels of radon. And 30% of homes in East Calhoun (that were tested over the past 25 years) have high levels of radon.
- Test kits are available to test for radon levels in the home. Tests should be repeated every 5 years.
- Mitigation is recommended if test results show elevated levels of radon. A list of certified radon mitigations contractors is available on MDH's website: www.health.state.mn.us/radon

ECCO's Radon Program, Monica Smith

ECCO has been partnering with the Minnesota Department of Health on this program that was initiated by the ECCO Task Force (established in October 2014) and allocates \$50,000 of Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) funding for a radon mitigation grant program. Radon mitigation costs average \$1,500-\$2,000 for a single family home.

ECCO is offering a grant program to help residents with mitigation expenses of up to 25% of the cost with a maximum grant of:

- \$500 for 1-2 unit residential buildings
- \$1,000 for 3-4 unit residential buildings
- \$1,250 for 5+ unit residential buildings

Grants will be available while funds last, first come, first served. Grant must be approved before work begins.

Radon Mitigation Program Process:

Step 1: Test your home

- Free short-term test kits are provided by ECCO
- Retest if recommended

Step 2: Pursue mitigation if desired

Step 3: Contact a certified radon mitigation professional for an estimate (www.health.state.mn.us/radon)

Step 4: Complete ECCO grant application before mitigation work begins.

Applications are available on our website: www.eastcalhoun.org/programs

Step 5: ECCO will approve eligible grants and reserve funds for your project

Step 6: Schedule the certified radon mitigation contractor to complete the work (within 90 days). Pay contractor directly.

Step 7: Send in the ECCO Grant Completion Certificate with receipts

Step 8: Receive grant reimbursement from ECCO.

Calhoun/Harriet Master Plan Update, Harvey Zuckman

The Park Board is working on a master plan for Lakes Calhoun and Harriet to set a vision for improvements to the lakes over the next 25 years. Harvey Zuckman was appointed by ECCO to represent the neighborhood on the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), which began meeting in July 2015. The CAC has been reviewing a wide variety of desires and needs and analyzing opportunities and constraints. They are now in the design criteria phase of the project. The CAC will make their recommendations to the Park Board Commissioners in January 2016. Suggestions may be sent to Harvey Zuckman at harveyhz@mac.com and to Deborah Bartels, Project Manager at dbartels@minneapolisparcs.org.

For more information on the project, go to www.minneapolisparcs.org and search "Calhoun Harriet Master Plan."

Activities of the 2014-15 ECCO Board, Susie Goldstein

Community events. Thanks to Social Committee co-chairs Mark Rosenfeld and Anna Flaig:

- Monthly Happy Hour at Lake & Irving Restaurant, 2nd Monday, 5-6:30 p.m.
- Holiday Caroling Party in December. Thanks to hosts Judy and Michael Shields. Save the date for this year's event: Thursday, December 17, meet at St. Mary's at 6:30 p.m.
- 43rd annual Super Sale in June. Thanks to organizer Sylvia Kafkas.
- Community puppet show and potluck dinner in June.
- Kids Zone at the North Star Bicycle Festival in June. Thanks to Paul Harstad for organizing the activities.
- Labor Day celebration in September. Thanks to Brad Albertson for securing all the donations of bingo prizes and food (Chipotle, Jersey Mike's Subs, Starbucks, Isles Bun & Coffee and Sebastian Joe's). Special thanks to the businesses that donated to the event and to all the volunteers who made the event possible.
- Upcoming event: Wine Tasting Fundraiser on Wednesday, October 28, 6:00-9:00 p.m. at Calhoun Square. Tickets are \$25/advance and \$35/door. 100% of

proceeds from tickets sold in advance by ECCO go to support the East Calhoun neighborhood.

Committees:

- **Livability Committee:** Co-chairs Kate Davenport and Ben Jilek. The committee works on zoning issues, traffic, safety and public event matters relevant to the neighborhood. The work in the past year included: new parking ordinance, accessory dwelling unit ordinance, and proposed developments on Lake St and Humboldt Ave (Wells Fargo bank), Holmes Ave and 31st St (6-story, mixed-use building) and 1720 Lake St (apartment project in East Isles). The next meeting is Monday, October 19 to discuss the neighborhood's response to the development on Holmes and 31st and a presentation from the Wells Fargo project team.
- **Green Team:** Co-chairs Sally Spence and Harry Savage and former co-chairs David Tompkins and Kathy Scoggin. The Green Team organized the annual Earth Day clean up in April (special thanks to Lucia's, Nespresso and Mesa Pizza for donating to the event) and a pollinator program in May. Special thanks to Lara Norkus-Crampton for initiating and coordinating the Cherry Tree project that planted 47 cherry trees in the neighborhood.
- **Communications:** ECCO communicates with residents via our website (eastcalhoun.org), monthly e-newsletter and placards that are placed around the neighborhood for updates.

ECCO is also participating in the Greater Uptown Community Partnership. The purpose of the group is to develop a coalition of Uptown community and business organizations in order to share information of common interest and work jointly to further items of mutual concern. The initial focus of the group will be safety of bikers and pedestrians, and parking. We are currently looking for a resident to represent ECCO at these meetings, if interested contact Monica Smith at nrp@eastcalhoun.org.

Special thanks to the 2014-15 ECCO Board: Susie Goldstein, President; Harry Savage, Vice President; Klaus Obergfell, Treasurer; Ben Jilek, Secretary; Abby Armstrong; Anja Curiskis; Kate Davenport; Anna Flaig; Paul Harstad; Mark Rosenfeld; David Tompkins; and Caroline Vaaler. Also thanks to Chris Iverson who served during part of the past year.

Bylaws Change, Mark Rosenfeld

Mark Rosenfeld presented proposed changes to the ECCO Bylaws:

1. Paperless voting for uncontested ECCO board elections
2. Removal of gender pro-nouns

Attendees approved a motion to accept the proposed bylaws changes.

Treasurer's Report, Klaus Obergfell

Klaus Obergfell reviewed ECCO's financials, which remained stable since last year's report.

Staff Report, Monica Smith

Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) was a 20-year City of Minneapolis program that provided funding to neighborhoods to make improvements based on the needs of

each neighborhood. The NRP program is phasing out; there is no new funding for this program. East Calhoun is spending down our NRP funds (i.e. the Radon Program).

ECCO receives funding from the City of Minneapolis for the Community Participation Program (CPP) for community engagement and administrative expenses of the board. ECCO's allocation for 2015 is \$24,000.

Program for residents:

- Home Security Grants of up to \$100 per household for allowable security upgrades.
- Rain Barrel, Compost Bin, Raingarden Grants of up to \$100 per property.
- Radon program grant (details above).

Residents were invited to get involved with ECCO by signing up for the e-newsletter, joining a committee, task force or the board.

New projects

ECCO is considering another raingarden project. Interested individuals should contact Monica Smith at nrp@eastcalhoun.org.

Board Elections

The following individuals were elected to the ECCO Board: Ellen Anderson-benge, Nathan Campeau, Alex Cleberg, Brittany Edwards, Rachel Hoben. Alternates: Gary Farland (first alternate) and Mary Sabatke.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Next meeting is Thursday, November 5, 7 p.m. at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church.